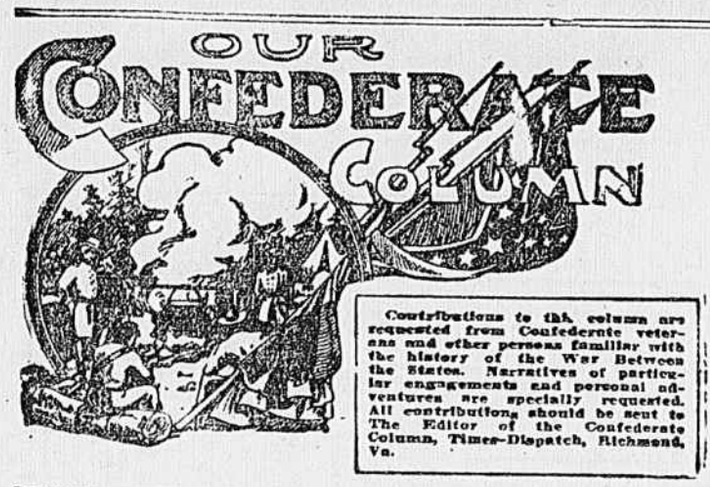


Contributions to this column are requested from Confederate veterans and other persons familiar with the history of the War Between the States. Narratives of particular engagements and personal adventures are specially requested. All contributions should be sent to The Editor of the Confederate Column, Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va.

CAVALRY STORIES FROM RECOLLECTIONS OF WAR

BY U. R. BROOKS.

During the attack of the Federals on Fort Sumter they landed a force in barges on the rocks around the fort, thinking to take it by assault. They were all captured by the garrison of the fort, and being sent to Charleston, a detachment of the South Carolina Rangers, who were doing courier and guard duty in the city under General Ripley, were detailed to convey the prisoners to Columbia, S. C. They arrived in Columbia about dark, turned the prisoners over to the prison, and were to return to Charleston next morning.

While waiting for the train some of the boys wandered about the city, looking for fun and excitement. They strolled into a bar room and restaurant, and found that the proprietor was about to raffle off a fine fifty-pound turkey, sixty chances at 50 cents a chance; the few chances not taken were soon subscribed to by the fun-seeking soldiers. The crowds in the place agreed that the fortunate winner should stand treat for all present. Dice were produced and the raffle commenced. While this was in progress Andrew Cunningham, a member of the Rangers, went into the back room to take a look at the turkey, which was in a coop there. Finding no one there but the turkey and himself, he got out his knife and decapitated the gobbler, leaving his head sticking up through the slats of the coop, and went through the back yard into the street, with the fat turkey under his arm. In the meantime in the front part of the bar room the raffle was going on. When the result was announced it was found that the turkey had been won by a very fancifully dressed tenderfoot, who was not in the army, and who immediately began to carry out the agreement that the winner was to stand treat to those present. The boys all took a very liberal portion of whiskey at his expense, and then all adjourned to the turkey's room to look at the fine bird that he had just won. When only the head was found, there was much excitement. Guns were drawn and the landlord accused of fraud. He protested his innocence, but the boys commenced to shoot out the lights, and during the darkness looted his place of all his liquor, each carrying several bottles. They met Cunningham with the headless turkey and took the train for Charleston, where they enjoyed a fine turkey spread, washed down by the varied contents of numerous bottles.

How Four Scouts of the Fifth South Carolina Cavalry Got Away From the Yankees.

In May, 1864, a party from Company D, Fifth South Carolina Cavalry, consisting of N. G. B. Chafee, John Tharin, J. W. Ward and Glenn E. Davis, were scouting between our lines and those of General Sheridan's. Early one morning they were riding through some woods when suddenly, in a turn of the road, they came right up to a company of Gregg's cavalry, of Sheridan's corps. The four Confederates wheeled their horses and dashed down a narrow road. They were fired upon and pursued by the Yankees, but, being better mounted, they succeeded in reaching a small body of thick woods. The enemy did not follow the Confederates into the woods, but divided their men into squads of from eight to ten each and completely surrounded the piece of woods, stationing their squads from three to four hundred yards apart. After being in the thicket for some time the Confederates, creeping to the edge of the woods, saw that they were in a trap and could not escape without breaking through one of the guarding squads, a desperate undertaking, as each squad numbered twice as many as they did. They held a council of war to try and determine what was best to be done. Two of the Confederates decided that there was nothing to do but to surrender. When it came to Davis, who commanded the party, to speak, he said that the others could do as they pleased, but he had always made up his mind to risk his life every time rather than be taken prisoner; that this determination had pulled him out of some very tight places. He told the boys that if they would stick together and shoot as straight as they knew how the chances were that some of them could get away, perhaps all. They agreed to abide by his advice, which was to dash out, attack the nearest squad and run by them if possible. All of the Confederates were fine shots, and Davis calculated that they could knock out several of the enemy in the mix-up. The plan was not to stop to fight any longer than was possible, but to try and break through, and run for their lives. They dashed out, and as soon as they struck the guarding squad dropped their reins over the pommel of their saddles and with pistols in each hand did some lively and accurate shooting, emptying four saddles. The Yankees were, as a rule, poor shots as compared to Confederates. They then dashed at full speed. The whole company of bluecoats, attracted by the firing, pursued them over three miles, finally abandoning the pursuit, as they were getting near the Confederate advance picket lines.

Practically none of the Confederates were hurt. Tharin had a slight scalp wound, Ward's horse was shot in the neck, not badly, a piece of Davis's horse's ear was shot off and a bullet cut his stirrup leather, causing him to lose his stirrup; he also had a pistol ball to penetrate his belt and clothing, lodging without any harm next to his skin. Chafee had two shot to go through his hat and a slight wound in his side. After he had emptied both of his pistols he knocked a Yankee off his horse who was about to cut him with his sabre, smashing his teeth out.

The boys of the Fifth South Carolina Cavalry had many exciting experiences, but perhaps the above incident was as thrilling a one as they had to tackle during the war. It was learned from a prisoner captured some weeks after this little brush that only one Yankee was killed, though the others knocked out were very badly hurt.

How a Member of Company D, Fifth South Carolina Cavalry, Exchanged Courtesies With One of Sheridan's Men.

In 1864, when Hampton's and Sheridan's cavalry were facing one another and were having almost daily fighting, near Richmond, Va., a member of Company D, Fifth South Carolina Cavalry, on one ocasion was sent out to locate the position and strength of Sheridan's picket line, and to gather in whatever information he could that would be of use to the Confederate cause. He was alone and, being near the Yankee lines, was cautiously moving along, his horse in a walk. While riding a path in a body of woods he suddenly came up to five of the enemy's cavalry. It was a surprise to both parties, and the lone Confederate saw that he was in a very tight place. During the temporary confusion he wheeled his horse, putting spurs into him, and dashed to the rear. Just as he turned his horse to escape the sergeant commanding the squad, seeing only one Confederate, and wishing to capture him, called to his men. "Don't shoot him, boys." The Confederate was pursued by the squad and shot at by one of them, but escaped unhurt, regaining his lines without getting the information he was sent for. The Yankee squad in all probability could and would have shot him when they first met, but whatever the motive of the sergeant, ordering his men not to shoot, the Confederate attributed his escape from death to the sergeant.

Some weeks after this incident the same Confederate was out again between the lines. While cautiously riding alone his keen ear caught the sound of a horse's feet evidently coming towards him. He drew back some feet out of the road, getting behind a large tree. A lone horseman came along, suspecting nothing. It was an easy matter for the Confederate, having the drop on the Yank, to gather him in, making him unbuckle his pistol belt and hand over his arms. The Yankee was very much surprised and deeply chagrined at being captured, and so expressed himself. After a little talk he recognized the Confederate as the same man that had gotten away from him a short time before, and told the Confederate that, hoping to capture him, he had given the command to his men not to shoot; that if he had let his men have their way he would not be a prisoner now. The Confederate told him that he appreciated the fact that his action that day had saved him from being killed or captured, and that he would not be outdone, so informed the Yankee that he was free, giving him back his arms, only stipulating that he should "go his way, and tell no man." They parted, each going his way. Before the Yankee left he gave the Confederate much valuable information that he was scouting for. During their talk he said, "Johnnie, you are a good fellow, and it is a pity we are obliged to fight one another. I hope the war will soon end. The trouble is, you fellows fight like hell, and when we got the advantage of you you don't seem to known it, or don't care a damn, but keep on fighting, eventually getting us on the run. We can always tell when we strike Butler's South Carolina cavalry."

The Yank told the truth. General Butler could always depend upon his command to fight whenever, whereever and as long as he wanted them.

CHRISTMAS IN THE WAR

General John B. Gordon in His Reminiscences Tells of the Da s in Camp in 1864

Christmas (December 25, 1864) came we were fighting famine within and Grant without our lines. To meet either was a serious problem. The Southern people from their earliest history had observed Christmas as the great holiday season of the year. It was the time of times, the longed-for period of universal and innocent but almost boundless jollification among young and old. In towns and on the plantations, purse-strings were loosened and restrains relaxed—so relaxed that the fun-loving negro slaves were permitted to take some liberties with their masters, to perpetrate practical jokes upon them, and before daylight to storm "de white folks" houses with merry calls: "Christmas gift, master!" "Christmas gift, everybody!" The holiday, however, on Hatcher's Run, near Petersburg, was joyous enough for e most misanthropic. The one worn-out railroad running to the far South could not bring to us near enough supplies, and even if it could have transported Christmas boxes of good things, the people at home were to depleted to send them. They had already impoverished themselves to help their struggling government and large areas of our territory had been made desolate by the ravages of marching armies. The brave fellows at the front, however, knew that their friends at home would gladly send them the last pound of sugar in the pantry, and the last turkey or chicken from the born yard. So they facetiously wished each other "Merry Christmas!" as they dined on their wretched fare. There was no complaining, no repining, for they knew their exhausted country was doing all it could for them.

At my headquarters on that Christmas day there was unusual merrymaking. Mrs. Gordon, on leaving home four years before, had placed in her little army trunk a small package of excellent coffee, and had used it on very special occasions "to celebrate," as she sa'd, "our victories in the first year and to sustain us in defeat in the last."

When I asked her, on the morning of December 25, 1864, what he could do for a Christmas celebration, she replied, "I can give you some of that coffee which I brought from home." She could scarcely have made an announcement more grateful to a hungry Confederate. Coffee—genuine coffee! The aroma of it filled my official family with epicurean enthusiasm before a cup was passed from the boiling pot. If every man of us was not intoxicated by that indulgence after long and enforced abstinence, the hilarity of the party was misleading.

The condition of our army was daily becoming desperate. Starvation, literal starvation, was doing its deadly work. So depleted and poisoned was the blood of many of Lee's men from insufficient and unsound food, that a slight wound which would probably not have been raported at the beginning of the war would often cause blood-poison, gangrene and death. Yet the spirits of these brave men seemed to rise as their condition grew more desperate. The grim humor of the camp was waging incessant warfare against despondency. They would not permit one another to be disheartened at any trial, or to complain at the burden or the chafing of any yoke which duty imposed. It was a harrowing but not uncommon sight to see those hungry men gather the wasted corn from under the feet of half-fed horses, and wash and parch and eat it to satisfy in some measure their craving for food. It was marvelous that their spirits were not crushed, and still more marvelous that they would extract fun from every phase of destitution. If one was made sick at night by his supper of parched corn his salutation the next morning would be: "Hello, general; I am alright this morning. I ate a lot of corn last night, and if you will have the commissary issue me a good mess of hay for my breakfast, I'll be ready for the next fight."

Another would adivse his hungry companion to spend his mopth's pay of Confederate money for a bottle of strong astringent and draw in his stomach to the size of his ration.

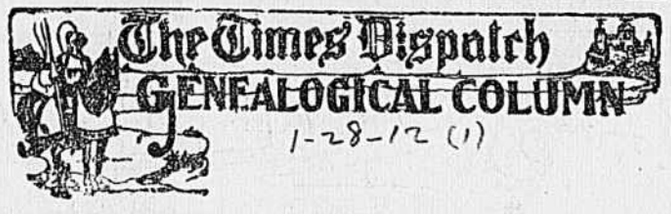
RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD SOLDIER

Incidents Occurring in Company C, 28th Virginia Regiment, During the Civil War

While our regiment was stationed along Warwick River in May, 1862, the year for which our regiment had enlisted expired, they were called upon to re-enlist, not for one year, but for the war. Strange as it may appear, Company C, without a dissenting vote, all re-enlisted, and re-elected the old company officers. I believe the other companies of the regiment did the same. The company officers were then called upon to elect a colonel, lieutenant-colonel and a major. Company C and perhaps one or two other companies voted to retain Colonel Robert E. Preston, who was always at the head of the regiment, whether marching or in battle, but he was defeated by Lieutenant-Colonel Allen. Lieutenant-Colonel William Watts was re-elected lieutenant-colonel. I do not remember who was elected major. There were several mud dams across Warwick River. (Tradition has it that General Lafayette had them erected during the Revoutionary War.) Many of his earthworks were reopened along the river. After the reorganization of the regiment and companies we were engaged in the battle of Williamsburg, as well as many skirmishes, until we crossed the Chickahominy Creek. The enemy remained on the south side of the creek. We established our camp about two miles south of Richmond and awaitad developments. It was the latter part of May, 1862, we moved to the east of Richmond, near the old race track. The night we arrived at this camp we received orders to make an early start next morning for Seven Pines. General Johnston, who was in command of the Southern forces, made an early attack upon the enemy while they were at breakfast and drove them from the field. Our forces replenished their haversacks from the many boxes and barrels of provisions the enemy had brought with them. General Johnston was wounded in this battle and was taken from the field.

General Stewart assumed command. We arrived too late to engage in the battle of this day. The next day our regiment marched out upon the main road. General Stewart had gone down the road to reconnoitre. Our backs were toward the enemy. A regiment of the enemy had advanced to the top of the hill in our rear and fired upon us while our guns were stacked in the road. They did not touch a man. General Stewart, hearing the firing, came galloping back and gave the order to charge, which we did through the fallen timber. Our regiments, as well as companies, became greatly disarranged. Company C, instead of being in the centre, was adjoining Company B at the extreme left of our line. General Pickett requested me to go up the hill in our rear so as to overlook the slight rise in our front to the enemy's position in the bottom. I reported to him that the enemy was advancing. He instructed me to go along the line to the left and instruct the men not to fire a shot until they could see the enemy's belts. As they advanced to the top of the ridge in our front, our men fired as one man, and killed every man in our front. Soon the enemy was again approaching in greater numbers than before, and a little to the right of their former line of approach. David Elmore, of Company C, was having trouble in getting sight at the enemy. I removed a small bush for him. Soon he fired and turned to me and remarked that he got him that time. The next volley from the enemy a shot struck him in the eye and he was taken from the field. Just at this time a general from the enemy's line dashed up to our line, reached out his hand and demanded our flag. Sergeant Lee waved it back and forward, remarking, "Take it if you can." Simultaneously Company C and one or two other companies fired upon him. He fell off his horse backwards; his feet hung in the stirrups, and the horse ran down toward the enemy's line, kicking at every jump, with the general dangling at his heels.

We had two very bright young men in our company--brothers—who had heretofore occupied positions next to the color guard, being considered the most dangerous position in the company. Our captain ordered that they be separated, one to remain next to the color guard, and the other was removed to the extreme left of the company. Both were killed at the same volley from the enemy, the last fired that day. Companies B and C had exhausted their ammunition. Our captain sent out for our reserve forces but they could not be found. Our regiment and brigade was ordered to fall back. A skirmish line was established in our rear. We marched out some two or three miles and went into camp. The enemy did not attempt to follow. I revisited the battlefield a few days later. Our Givens boys were very decently buried. From the enemy's tally sheet upon pines blazed showing number buried, they buried more men than we had men killed and alive. —Salem Times.



Data Concerning the Early Hill Family of Middlesex County, Va., and Their Posterity, Who Settled in Culpeper and Madison Counties, Va.:

William Hill, died in Middlesex county, Va., in 1669, and was buried in the churchyard of old Christ Church, in St. Margaret's Parish, Middlesex county, Va. ("William Hill was buried in the Chirch Yard February 12th, 1669." The Register of Christ Church, Middlesex county, Va., —— edition, page 10.) No other record of the said William Hill appears in the records mentioned, and it is the earliest mention of any person by that name contained therein.

Who was this William Hill, and who were his ancestors? Whence came he? When was he born, when and to whom married, if married at all, and what descendants left he? Was he the immigrant? Possibly so, since his burial was not quite sixty-two years after the first settlement at Jamestown, and considering the manner in which the early settlements were almost, if not entirely destroyed by disease, and were slow in again building up, it is highly improbable that he was born and reared in the colony or colonies. Then this is one of the very first entries in the record; hence the presumption that this settlement in Middlesex county had not been long founded and he was among the first settlers, if not actually the first of his name and family. Again, it was customary to give in the record the names of the parents in connection with birth, marriage and death entries, which, not being done in this case, again supports a presumption that he was the immigrant.

It is said by some that his wife was Ann ——, and that he left a son, Thomas Hill (see page 6, this data), but this is conjectural and unproven, although possibly true.

Susannah Hill.—Who was she? A sister of Thomas Hill, hereinafter mentioned? Possibly so; but there is no evidence now produced establishing her identity. The only entry concerning her is found on page 17 of "The Register of Christ Church," above mantioned, which is as follows: "Edward Ellis and Susannah Hill, both of this p'ish, was married 7th July, 1678." This was the same year in which the first mention is made of the birth of a child to Thomas Hill, and from this it is inferred that she was about his age; possibly a few years younger. It is also inferred from the fact that her father's name is not mentioned, that he was then dead, in all probability. Hence the William Hill who was buried in 1669 (see page 1, this data) might have been her father. Supposing, for sake of argument, that the said William Hill died leaving a large family of children not then grown, it might be assumed that those children would be of marriageable age when Thomas Hill (page 6), Susannah Hill, above mentioned; Eliza Hill (see post), Dorothy Hill (see post), and William Hill (see page 3) were married. He might have been their father, and these persons all brothers and sisters; but this, in the absence of evidence stronger than the fact that their names do not duplicate and that they were apparently of the same generation, is purely conjectural.

Eliza Hill.—Who was she? The following entry in the records mentioned on page 21 is the only mention of her that has been found thus far: "Thomas Thompson and Eliza Hill, of this parish, was married 17th of September, 1682."

Dorothy Hill.—Who was she? The following entry, on page 21 of the above mentioned records, is the only entry found thus far: "William Tignor, jun'r, of Northumberland, and Dorothy Hill, of this parish, was married 13th of July, 1682."

Note.—The investigation into the Hill family of Middlesex county having been undertaken with especial reference to that or those branches that afterwards removed to Culpeper and Madison counties, further investigation into the descendants of Susannah Hill Ellis, Eliza Hill Thompson and Dorothy Hill Tignor is now postponed.

William Hill.—Who was he? Was he a son of the William Hill who died and was buried in 1669? Was he a brother of Thomas Hill?

He might have been either or both, but no evidence has thus far been produced to prove that he was or was not either. When was he born? Where was he reared? Whom did he marry? His wife's given name was Ann, but her maiden name and parentage is not known. He is presumed to have been several years younger than Thomas Hill, hereinafter mentioned (see pages 6 and 7, this data), inasmuch as Thomas was a father in the year 1678, while this man was a father in 1698. In fact, it has been presumed by some that he was a son of the said Thomas Hill, but that cannot be, since Thomas's son William was born in 1684, only fourteen years before the birth of this man's first mentioned child, and also William, son of Thomas Hill, is beyond question the man who married Frances Needles (see page 8, this data).

No entry occurs in said records with reference to the marriage of this William Hill, which might have taken place in another parish, and in all probability did.

The following entries appear showing births of his children:

(1), Isabella Hill.—"Isabella Hill, the daughter of William and Ann Hill, was born the first of May, 1698." Id. records, page 46.

(2), Ann Hill.—"Ann Hill, the daughter of William and Ann Hill, baptized 30th, March, 1701." Id. records, page 48.

(3), Elizabeth Hill.—"Elizabeth, ye daughter of William Hill and Ann, his wife, was baptized ye same day (i. e., March ye 2d), 1707." Id. records, page 69.

(4), John Hill.—"John, son of William and Ann Hill, baptized October 1st, 1710." Id. records, page 76.

(5), Mary Hill.—"Mary, daughter of William and Ann Hill, baptized May 10th, 1713." Id. records, page 87.

(6), Diana Hill.—"Diana, daughter of William and Ann Hill, born August 25, baptized September 25, 1715." Id. records, page 92.

This William Hill is believed to have been the man who died in 1720, and mentioned in the following entry: "William Hill dyed May ye 6, and was buried May ye 8, 1720. Bar Yates, minister." Id. records, page 176. If so, he was necessarily as much as fifty-one or fifty-two years of age, if he was the son of the first mentioned William Hill, and whether he was or not, if he died in 1720, he had been married at least twenty-three years, if not more, and hence must have been over forty years of age at time of his death. Even if he were the son of the originally mentioned William Hill, he could scarcely have been the William, son of William Hill mentioned on page 192 of said records, as dying in 1746, as he would then be at least seventy-seven years old, and his father's name would not have been mentioned after he had been dead seventy-seven years. See page 8 this data.

The William Hill who died in 1720 was not the son of Thomas Hill, since mention is made of children being born to William and Frances Hill, as late as 1720, and it is considered conclusive that this William Hill died in 1720.

His wife is believed to have been the Ann or Anne Hill who died in 1726, for several reasons. Had her husband been living, the entry would have read: "Anne, wife of," etc., instead of simply "Anne Hill dyed January ye 15, and was buried January ye 17, 1726." On page 183, Id. records.

While Ann the wife of Thomas Hill, and Ann, the wife of William Hill, were both living at the same time, still the wife of Thomas Hill was invariably called Ann Hill, while in the entry, in regard to the birth of Dianah, the youngest child of William and Ann Hill, her name is spelled Anne, instead of Ann, and it is but reasonable to suppose that if she was called Anne in her later years she is the person referred to when the entry is made of the death of Anne Hill in 1726. Furthermore, no mention has been made of Ann, wife of Thomas Hill, since the year 1686, giving ground for the natural, if not almost inevitable conclusion that she died many years before 1726. Hence the presumption that Anne Hill, who died January 15, 1726, was the wife of William Hill, above mentioned.

The Register of Christ Church, above and hereafter so frequently mentioned and quoted, makes no further mention of William Hill, his wife, Ann or Anne, or their children, so far as is now discovered. They may have immigrated to some other portion of the country, as many other members of the early Hill family are known to have done. While many of the members of the family in those days are known to have been men of means and high standing, they were essentially soldiers and pioneers, men who built up their communities, sold when prices had advanced to suit them, and moved further to the frontier to again select the most desirable locations and repeat their successful operations. For further data, see pages —— —— this data.

Richard Hill.—Who was he? The only entry concerning him is found on page 188 of the said records, and is as follows: 'Richard Hill, dyed January 18, was buried January ye 22, 1731." It is scarcely possible that this Richard was the son of William and Frances Needles Hill, who is supposed to have died on January 23, 1714. See page —— this data, but nothing is known positively concerning this party. He is probably from some nearby county, or else the descendant of some collateral branch, if connected at all with the family here being traced.

Edward Hill.—Who was he? The only entry concerning him in the above mentioned records is the following entry, on page 192: "Sent to the Secret Office, October, 1737. Edward Hill died February 20th, 1736."

Isaack Hill.—Who was he? Whence came he? Where did he reside, and what descendants did he leave?

The following is the only entry in the records hereinabove mentioned concerning him, which is found on page 81: "Isaack Hill and Margaret Jennings, ye 28th of July, 1708," under the heading "Marriages 1708, Vizt."

From this entry, it might be inferred that he was born some time between 1680 and 1690 in all probability, and hence, might possibly have been a son of Thomas and Ann Hill, whose birth was omitted from the records above quoted, although there is absolutely nothing to indicate that such was a fact.

It is more probable that he was raised in some nearby county, as there had been citizens of that name in several counties in the Tidewater sections of Virginia, especially those portions now known as the "Peninsula" and the "Northern Neck," since 1620 whose descendants had scattered south into Isle of Wight county, as far west as what is now Brunswick county, at least, and probably into North Carolina; west as far as Amelia, Charlotte, Bedford and Albemarle counties at least, and north, through Spotsylvania and Stafford counties, and to the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in what is now Orange, Madison and Culpeper counties; if not, also eastward to the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay; hence, the presumption, in the absence of any other mention of this Isaack Hill, that he was either a distant kinsman from some other county, or if from Middlesex county, descended from some collateral branch of the family, rather than a close kinsman, as above considered. Purely conjectural, however, in the absence of further evidence.

Thomas Hill.—Who has he? Probably a son of the William Hill who died in 1669. See page —— this data, but this is not conclusively established. He is the most remote ancestor of the Hill family of Virginia, or at least of those branches thereof hereinafter mentioned and traced, thus far definitely and satisfactorily traced, although it is trusted that further investigations may disclose further data and conclusive evidence to sustain the same. Until further information sustained by satisfactory proofs are discovered, this Thomas Hill will be treated as the immigrant and founder of the Hill family of Virginia, hereinafter mentioned. His wife was Miss Ann ——, daughter of —— and ——, his wife. She is said by some to have been Miss Ann Russell, descendant of Sir William Russell, or John Russell, who came to Virginia about 1620, but what is the authority for this statement?

The date of their marriage is not now known, but the following entries in the records above mentioned show her given name to have been Ann, and the names of some, presumably all, of their children:

Mary Hill.—("Mary, daughter of Thomas and Ann Hill, was borne the 14th of ffebruary, and baptized the 6 of Aprill, 1678." Id. records, page 14.)

Rebecca Hill—("An accompt of Christenings ffor the years 1682.) Rebecca Hill, the daughter of Thomas and Ann Hill, borne 30th of August and baptized 17th of September." Id., page 13.

William Hill.—("William Hill, ye sonne of Thomas and Ann Hill, was baptized 20th of July, 1684." Id., page 26.)

Two parties by this name were living at the same time, and both are mentioned in the records above cited, one of whom married Frances Needles, and the other, Ann or Anne ——.

From a comparison of dates, etc., it is conclusive that this William, son of Thomas and Ann Hill, was the former, marrying Frances Needles, in 1710, when he was twenty-six years of age, as the William who married Ann —— had a child born in 1698, or when the William, son of Thomas and Ann Hill, was but fourteen years of age. See page —— this data.

Rebecca Hill.—("Rebecca Hill, ye daughter of Thomas and Ann Hill, baptized at ye lower Chapel 28th, 9br., 1686." Id., page 30.) ("1686 Christened, etc., September —— ditto. Rebecca, daughter of Thomas and Ann Hill." Id., page 33.)

Query.—Why have three entries been made in reference to the birth or Christening of Rebecca Hill? The last entry is not in conflict with the second, but rather a second entry of the same event and confirmatory of the fact, but both are irreconcilable with the first, which, being complete as to dates, etc., can scarcely be erroneous. Hence, the presumably was and, in fact, must have been two daughters born to this couple named Rebecca, one born in 1682, and the other in 1686, after the birth of the son William. Probably the first Rebacca died in early infancy, and the next daughter was named Rebacca also. No entry of the burial of this first Rebecca is made in this parrish records, but it frequently happened in those times that it was not possible to obtain the services of the minister to officiate at funerals, especially in the heat of summer. Is this the correct explanation?

It is believed that this last daughter of Thomas and Ann Hill was married to John Hughes on December 31, 1704, as she would at that time have been eighteen years of age, but it is not conclusive, although strongly presumptive that she was the Rebecca Hill. ("John Hughes and Rebecca Hill married ye 31th of December, 1704. Bar Yates, minister." Id. records, page 79.

No entry appears in the records mentioned in regard to the marriage of Mary Hill, and it is not now definitely known whether she ever married or to whom. Inasmuch as this search was primarily undertaken, with reference to the Hill family, further search with reference to the descendants of Mary and Rebecca, if they left any, must be postponed until a more convenient time, and if further reference is made to them it will be found on pages —— —— of this data.

From the entry, "Thomas Hill dyed August ye 3 and was buried August ye 4, 1720," on page 176 of the aforementioned records, it is possible that this was the date of the death and burial of this early ancestor, although, of course, it does not absolutely identify him as the decedent, who might also have been his grandson, Thomas, infant son of William and Frances Hill. See Post, page ——, this data. The death of his wife, Ann, is not mentioned, and she is believed to have died before 1700, for the same reason that no mention is made of her after the birth of her child in 1686. Unless this be the Thomas Hill, who died in 1720, and which is less probable than that it was his little grandson, the exact dates of the birth, marriage and death of Thimas Hill and Ann, his wife, are not known. He served in the military forces of the colony, as necessary to protect the settlers from the histile Indians, and is said to have been a captain of the Middlesex troops in 1657. He may have been killed by the Indians, or he may have moved to some other county, but no data has been yet produced establishing satisfactorily his death and last resting place.

William Hill.—Son of Thomas and Ann (——) Hill, said by some to have been named William Russell Hill, and that his mother's maiden name was Russell, and which may have been true, although not as yet proves to this investigator, was born, or at least, Christened, on the 20th day of July, 1684, and married on September 7th, 1710, to Miss Frances Needles, daughter of William and Dorothy (——) Needles (not the daughter of John and Elizabeth Mann Needles, as claimed by some), who was then twenty years of age. ("ffrances Needles, ye daughter of William and Dorothy Needles, was borne 19th of March, 1690." Page 42, Id, records.) ("William Hill and ffrances Needles 7th of September, 1710," under the heading of "Marriages, &c., 1710 Vizt," on page 82, Id., records.) Note how her name is spelled, "ffrances Needles, 7th of September, 1710."

No entry in said records mentions the death or burial of either the above named William Hill or of Frances, his wife. From the entries made it appears that their children were as follows:

(1), Thomas Hill.—("Thomas, son of William and Frances Hill, born May ye 20, 1700." Id, records, page 86.)

Note.—This child evidently died before 1722, or these parents would not have named another child Thomas. The entry, "Thomas Hill dyed August ye 3 and was buried August ye 4, 1720," on page 176 of said records, probably refer to this child, notwithstanding a presumtion that the entry in that event should have said, "Thomas, son of William and Frances Hill," instead of simply Thomas Hill dyed, etc. Hence, the possibility is that it was this child's grandfather, Thomas Hill, who died in 1720, or possibly some other Thomas Hill. On the other hand, the absence of any mention of grandfather Thomas Hill since 1686, twenty-four years prior thereto, and the undoubted fact that this child, Thomas, died prior to 1722 and presumably after 1717, when his brother, Russell, was Christened, raises the strongest presumption that this child was the person who is referred to in the above death entry See Post, page 10.

(2), William Hill.—("William, son of William and Frances Hill, born November ye 7, 1712." Id. records, page 88.)

Query.—Is this the same William Hill mentioned in the entry on page 192 of said records: "William, son of William Hill, died April ye 25th, 1746?" It would seem more natural to mention the father's name in connection with a child than with a man thirty-three years of age, as would be the case if this is the same William Hill. Again, why was the father and not the mother's name mentioned if this is the same son of William and Frances? Probably she was dead at that time. No mention is made of her death, neither is her name mentioned after the birth of her daughter, Anne Hill, in 1730. Hence, this is purely conjectural thus far, and is subject to future determination upon production of proven facts.

(3), Richard Hill.—("Richard, son of William and Frances Hill, born January 15, baptized January ye 22, 1714." Id. records, page 89.) "Richard Hill dyed January ye 23, and was buried January ye 24, 1714." Page 84, Id. records.

No other entry with reference to this son, Richard, appears, and while not absolutely conclusive, it is believed that the Richard mentioned in the death entry was the son of William and Frances Hill. There is an entry on page 188 of said records showing the death of a William Hill in 1731, which is believed to refer to another William Hill. See data on page ——.

(4), Russell Hill.—("Russell, son of William and Frances Hill, born February ye 25, 1716, baptized April 21, 1717. Bar Yates, minister." Id. records, page 96.) This Russell Hill was reared in Middlesex county, was married on April 11th, 1737, to Miss Anne Towles, daughter of Stockeley and Anne Towles, removed to what was then the frontier, if not actually beyond any settlement then made, and settled on the headwaters of Crooked Run, in what is now Culpeper county, but almost on the Madison county line, where he acquired a large tract of land which he named either "Stranger's Route" or "Stranger's Rest," the exact name being not definitely known by the present family, but it is known to be one or the other of the names mentioned. The exact date of this migration is also not definitely settled, but was after the death of his daughter, Frances, in 1739, and before the birth of his next child, the exact date of which birth is not known, but must have been between 1739 and 1741. See Post, page ——, for further discussion of this. No mention is made of the birth of any children after his first child, Frances, in the above mentioned records; hence, his removal must have been during the year 1739 or 1740, and this is the best information handed down in the family, aside from and in corroboration of the above presumption.

It is very probable that the low Tidewater section in which they lived did not suit their health, as evidenced by the death of their daughter, Frances, and the many deaths among his brothers and sisters, as well as among neighbors and kinsmen, was a strong factor in determining them to push further west and settle in the rich valleys along the foothills of the mountains. The price of land could scarcely have been the sole cause, unless the land in their home community was all held in large tracts by owners who refused to sell off portions at any price, preferring to hold their large acquisitions for future and higher prices still.

He was followed a few years later by his brother, Needles Hill, who lived either very near to or on the same plantation with Russell Hill, and this home of Russell was the customary stopping place for the steady stream of immigrants who followed them and pushed on beyond them, over into the rich Valley of Virginia. See pages —— ——.

(5), Judith Hill.—"Judith, daughter of William and Frances Hill, born June ye 2d, baptized June ye 28, 1719. Bar Yates, minister." Id. records, page 103.

"William Boughton and Judith Hill married January ye 22d, 1739."

Query.—Did not this William Boughton and wife afterwards remove to what is now Greene county, Va., and is not the Booton family, of Greene and Madison counties, descended from them? Ann Powell Hill, daughter of Colonel Robert Hill, of Culpeper and Madison counties (see pages —— —— this data), married John Booton, and her daughter, Fannie or Frances, married Dr. William A. Hill, who lived and died at Locustdale, Madison county, Va. See page —— this data.

6, Thomas Hill: "Thomas, Son of William & Frances Hill, born June ye 17.. baptized July ye 15, 1722. Bar Yates, minister." Id. Records, page 110.

This is the second child born to this couple that was given the name of Thomas. The first child undoubtedly died presumably August 3, 1720, and this the next male child borne to this couple, was given the name of the dead first born. See Note, supra, page 8.

7. Needles Hill: "Needles, son of William & Frances Hill, born August ye 12, baptized September ye 19, 1725. Bar Yates, minister." Id. Records, page 118.

This child was apparently named for his mother's family, she having been a Miss Needles. He either accompanied his older brother Russell to Culpeper county, or else followed him there, probably the latter, as he was but fourteen or fifteen years of age when Russell, who was nine years older, moved to that part of the frontier, and in those days it was customary for the sons to remain with their parents until they attained their majority. Furthermore, from the entry in regard to the birth of his son Humphrey, Needles Mill must have been living in Middlesex county in 1755. Hence, he probably remained in Middlesex county until after the year 1755 before moving to Madison county, near his brother. The exact location of this trace on which he settled can probably be ascertained from the records, as Culpeper county was organized in the year 17——, but this has not as yet been done. It was undoubtedly near to, if not actually adjoining the place, "Stranger's Route," which was built up and owned by his brother Russell.

The exact date of his marriage is not known; there is some slight question as to his wife's maiden name, and her ancestry is entirely unknown. There is some slight belief that she was Miss Jane Humphrey, while the great weight of evidence is that she was a Miss Jane Morgan, all of which will be more fully considered hereafter, and for which, as well as to his posterity, reference may be had to page —— this data.

8. Frances Hill: "Frances, daughter of William & Frances Hill, born January ye 26, baptized March ye 10, 1727. Bar Yates, minister." Id. Records, page 122.

She was apparently named for her mother, never married and died without issue, as per entry on page 196, Id. Records: "Frances, Daughter of Wm. Hill, died May ye 30th, 1746."

Note.—From the entry specifying that she was the daughter of William Hill, instead of William and Frances Hill, it is presumptive evidence that her mother was dead at that time. See query under name of her older brother, William, on page ——, this data, where a similar presumption is raised, and which strengthens the conclusion that their Frances, wife of William Hill, died after the year 1730, and during or prior to the year 1746.

9. Anna Hill: "Anna, daughter of William & Frances Hill, born July 25, batized August 30, 1730. Bar Yates, minister." Id. Records, page 129.

Note.—There was another Judith Hill of a generation cotemporaneous with that of the Judith Hill, daughter of William and Frances Hill, above mentioned, but it does not appear whose daughter she was. The only entry concerning her reads as follows: "Joseph Brooks & Judith Hill married October 30th, 1733." Id. Records, page 200.

It is confidently believed that a careful examination of the old court and county records would yield much information of interest in connection with the data thus far tabulated, bringing out many new facts and much additional as well as entirely new evidence touching upon those facts already satisfactorily established.

(Continued to Next Sunday.)

1-28-12 (2)